

CONFIDENTIAL

22 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Request of the Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, for an Exception to Current Dispersion Standards.

1. On 18 November 1954 I handcarried to Mr. Arthur Flemming, Director, Office of Defense Mobilization, the Director's letter to him dated 16 November which outlined the need for a new CIA building in the Washington, D.C., area and requested his concurrence in an exception to current dispersion standards in order to permit us to select a site within a radius of from five to ten miles of the White House.

2. Mr. Flemming and I discussed the general problem briefly and I advised him that at the moment we were seriously considering the Langley property. I reassured him that we had considered the possibility of maintaining a nucleus of the organization in Washington and of dispersing the remainder but that after careful consideration we had concluded that this would not be feasible. Mr. Flemming seemed to understand our problem but stated that he would prefer not to answer our letter until certain conferences scheduled in the near future were completed. Specifically, he said that it was current thinking in the Office of Defense Mobilization that the dispersion limits should be pushed back so as to require dispersal thirty-five miles from Washington in lieu of ten miles. He stated that this matter would be discussed at an early meeting of either the National Security Council or the Cabinet, adding that the Director, of course, would be present at an NSC Meeting and that if in preference to this medium it was decided to bring it before members of the Cabinet he would insure that Mr. Dulles was invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the dispersion problem, come to grips with it, and decide what the Government policy shall be. After the meeting Mr. Flemming would propose that he and Mr. Dulles discuss the matter with the President after which he, Flemming, would reply formally to the Director's letter. I told him that I was sure this procedure would be entirely satisfactory to Mr. Dulles.

cc: Chief, Logistics

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Document No.	100
No Change In Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed to:	TS S C
Next Review Date:	1988
Date:	12 DEC 1978
By:	051

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L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director  
(Administration)

Approved For Release 2001/08/31 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000200030052-1

NOTE: Colonel White gave the Director an oral briefing on the above at the Deputies' Meeting on 22 November. Laq